In the Claims:

This listing will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the subject application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising exposing to moisture an article made from poly(ethylene oxide) having graft polymerized thereto an organic moiety including a trialkoxy silane functional group or a moiety that reacts with water to form a silanol group, such that said graft polymerized poly(ethylene oxide) at least partially crosslinks and is capable of absorbing a quantity of aqueous liquid, wherein the article is selected from the group consisting of a film, a fiber, a foam, and a pellet.

2. – 4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) A fiber made from melt processed poly(ethylene oxide) having graft polymerized thereto an organic moiety including a trialkoxy silane functional group or a moiety that reacts with water to form a silanol group.

6. (Original) A film made from melt processed poly(ethylene oxide) having graft polymerized thereto an organic moiety including a trialkoxy silane functional group or a moiety that reacts with water to form a silanol group.

7. (Original) A foam made from melt processed poly(ethylene oxide) having graft polymerized thereto an organic moiety including a trialkoxy silane functional group or a moiety that reacts with water to form a silanol group.

8. (Original) A pellet made from melt processed poly(ethylene oxide) having graft polymerized thereto an organic moiety including a trialkoxy silane functional group or a moiety that reacts with water to form a silanol group.

9. (Original) A method comprising:

combining poly(ethylene oxide), an initiator and an organic monomer capable of graft polymerization with said poly(ethylene oxide), said organic monomer including a trialkoxy silane functional group or a moiety that reacts with water to form a silanol group;

subjecting the combination of poly(ethylene oxide), the initiator and organic monomer to conditions sufficient to graft the organic monomer onto the poly(ethylene oxide);

melt processing the grafted polymer into a functional form; and

subjecting the functional form to humid conditions sufficient to induce at least partial crosslinking of the polymer.

10. (Previously Presented) A laminated structure comprising a first layer comprising melt processed poly(ethylene oxide) having graft polymerized thereto an organic moiety including a trialkoxy silane functional group or a moiety that reacts with water to form a silanol group laminated to a second layer.

11. (Previously Presented) The laminated structure of Claim 10, wherein said first layer is a fiber, a film or a foam.

12. (Previously Presented) The laminated structure of Claim 10, wherein said second layer comprises melt processed poly(ethylene oxide) having graft polymerized thereto an organic moiety including a trialkoxy silane functional group or a moiety that reacts with water to form a silanol group.

13. (Previously Presented) The laminated structure of Claim 12, wherein said second layer is a fiber, a film or a foam.

14. (Original) The laminated structure of Claim 10, wherein said second layer comprises a nonwoven layer.

15. (Original) The laminated structure of Claim 12, wherein said second layer comprises a nonwoven layer.

16. (Original) The laminated structure of Claim 10, wherein said second layer comprises wood pulp.

17. (Original) The laminated structure of Claim 10 further comprising a third layer laminated to said first layer.

18. (Original) The laminated structure of Claim 10, wherein said first layer is a film and said second and third layers comprise sheets of nonwoven material.

19. (Original) The laminated structure of Claim 18, wherein said nonwoven material is tissue.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A method of adhering a first material to a second material comprising

a. interposing between said first and second materials and in contact therewith ~~the adhesive of Claim 20~~ at an elevated temperature an adhesive comprising a melt processed poly(ethylene oxide) having graft polymerized thereto an organic moiety including a trialkoxy silane functional group or a moiety that reacts with water to form a silanol group; and

b. permitting said melt processed material to cool to ambient temperature.

22. (Previously Presented) A method comprising exposing to moisture an article made from poly(ethylene oxide) having graft polymerized thereto an organic moiety including a trialkoxy silane functional group or a moiety that reacts with water to form a silanol group, such that at least a portion of said graft polymerized poly(ethylene oxide) crosslinks and absorbs at least a portion of an aqueous liquid, whereby at least a portion of said graft polymerized poly(ethylene oxide) forms a non-water soluble gel.

23. (Original) The method of Claim 22, wherein said gel fraction comprises up to about 98% by weight.

24. (Original) The method of Claim 22, wherein said gel fraction comprises about 2% by weight.

25. (Original) The method of Claim 22, wherein said gel fraction comprises about 2%-98% by weight.

26. (Original) The method of Claim 22, wherein said gel fraction comprises about 2%-60% by weight.

27. (Original) The method of Claim 22, wherein said gel fraction comprises about 50%-60% by weight.

28. (Original) The method of Claim 22, wherein said gel fraction comprises about 50%-98% by weight.

29. – 35. (Canceled)